

October

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

In This Issue

Contents

Magic Lantern Calendar – October 2023	2
Revisit Sept E-pub Purchase a Suitable Working Lantern	4
Thousands of 'Magic Lantern' Slides Show What Life Was Like 120 Years Ago	6
Educating With Lantern Slides	7
Magic Lantern Performance Group Meets Regularly	10
Looking for information about light boxes and their producer	11
The Met.....	11
Welcome New Member and Renewing Member	12

Click slide if your not afraid!



The Magic Lantern Calendar – October 2023

Events

Oct. 4, 2023, *The Wonderful World of the Victorian Magic Lantern*, a John Townsend presentation on magic lanterns, slides, and everything related to them, the Armitt Museum, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Yorkshire, LA22 9BL, UK.

Oct. 5, 2023, *Halloween Magic Lantern Show*, Terry Borton presents a short show in the afternoon and full 1-1/2 hour show at 7:30 in the evening. Featuring stories, songs, and animated comedy with a spooky theme. Miner Theatre, 116 Miner Ave E., Ladysmith, WI 54848.

Oct. 12, 2023, *Fantasmagoria: A Night of Ghostly Magic Lanterns*, by Elliot & Schlemowitz, beginning with a short lecture on the historical roots of Fantasmagoria, followed by the short film Phantasmagories: The Dark Side of Light, and an eerie and entertaining magic lantern show inspired by the original Fantasmagorie of Etienne-Gaspard Robertson, Church of the Ascension, 127 Kent Street, Brooklyn NY 11222. More information at <https://www.morbidanatomy.org/events-tickets/in-person-fantasmagoria-a-night-of-ghostly-magic-lanterns-with-dawn-elliott-joel-schlemowitz-and-ronni-thomas>

Oct. 14, 2023, *Elliott and Schlemowitz's Phantasmagoria*, an 18 th century inspired magic lantern show, including a visit to a haunted graveyard, The Death of Lord Littleton, St. Dennis and the Devil, and an invocation of the Devil at a Witches' Sabbath. Schuyler Mansion, 32 Catherine St., Albany, NY

Oct. 14, 2023, *Autumn meeting 2023*, Magic Lantern Society, The Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS, UK.

Oct. 21, 2023, *Halloween Magic Lantern Show*, Terry Borton features stories, songs, and animated comedy with a spooky theme. Three half hour shows, part of the Autumn Lands event. Historic Smithville Park, 803 Smithville Rd., Easthampton Township, NJ 08060.

Oct. 21, 2023, *Magic Lantern Show*, with Elliot & Schlemowitz, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, NY 11106.

Oct. 22, 2023, *Raree Show*, Rock Hall Museum Country Fair, 199 Broadway, Lawrence, NY 11559

Oct. 25, 2023, *Magic Lantern Halloween Marvels*, with Matt Schnittker – comedy, scary, and a wonderful good time, Los Angeles Breakfast Club, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Oct 27, 2023, *Halloween Magic Lantern Show*, Matt Schnittker presents a somewhat sinister, mostly supernatural and completely pre-cinema Halloween-themed show featuring a vintage projector and gorgeous hand painted slides, with piano accompaniment by son Benjamin Schnittker, Philosophical Research Society, 3910 Los Feliz Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Oct. 28-29, *Dia De Los Muertos MagicLantern Show*, with Matt Schnittker, Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Event, Old town San Diego, CA.

Nov. 2, 2023, *The Phantasmagoria: the Hidden Workings of an 18 th Century Magic Lantern Show*, Magic lanternist performer Joel Schlemowitz gives an illustrated lecture on the technical and cultural history of the phantasmagoria, Rock Hall Museum, 199 Broadway, Lawrence, NY.

continued next page

The Magic Lantern Calendar – October 2023 continued

Nov. 8 & 9, 2023, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, a one person magic lantern show of the classic book *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by Robert Tressell, Alma Tavern and Theatre, 18-20 Alma Vale Rd, Clifton, Avon, Bristol BS8 2HY, UK.

Dec. 1-2, *Lamplight Tours*, with magic lantern presentation by Matt Schnittker, Columbia State Historic Park – meet at Columbia Museum, 22747 Main St, Columbia, CA 95310.

Dec. 6, 2023, *The Wonderful World of the Victorian Magic Lantern*, a John Townsend presentation on magic lanterns, slides, and everything related to them, the Armitt Museum, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Yorkshire, LA22 9BL, UK.

Dec. 9, 2023, *Victorian Magic Lantern Show*, Victorian Holiday Ball, King Manor, 150-03 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11423.

Jan. 20, 2024, *Annual General Meeting 2024*, The Magic Lantern Society, The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London, TW8 0DU, UK.

Apr. 26, 2024, *Magic Lantern Keynote*, presented by members of the NW Group, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Port Townsend Victorian Festival, Port Townsend WA 98368 USA.

Exhibits

Through Dec. 2026, *The Story of the Moving Image*, includes shadow puppets, Victorian-era magic lanterns, original cameras and more, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fed Square, Melbourne,

Australia <https://www.acmi.net.au/whats-on/story-of-the-moving-image-exhibition/>.

Ongoing, *The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection*, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president

Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cin>

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton:

tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns.

<http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns.

<http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page.

www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.



Purchase a Suitable Working Lantern Together With US Slide Carrier

From Mitchell Kornet
mkornet@aol.com

Hi Larry and David,

Thanks so much for sending me the newsletter and posting my request.

I found something on Ebay a few days ago, and I'm hoping that when I get it, it will work and I can look at my slides.

My slides are very interesting, and the way I obtained them is even more of a story.

I am a veterinarian and I went to Cornell University. When I was there I had a mentor, an equine surgeon who helped me so much in my career. We became friends. Unfortunately Dr. L.L. Kramer passed away over 20 years ago, and that was the end of any contact I had with him or his family.

About 8 years ago, I was talking to the late Dean of the Cornell vet college, who was a friend of mine, and I told him about my relationship with Dr. Kramer. Dean Smith told me that when Dr.

Kramer passed away, he was given some of his personal effects, and he wanted me to have some of them.

Several weeks later Dean Smith gave me many boxes of glass slides that I never had seen before. There was a label that identified the slides from Cornell University and I contacted the librarian to find out more about the slides.

That's when I learned that these were Magic Lantern slides. I looked at the slides by holding them up to a window, and never did anything else with them. Recently I became curious, and I decided to look into a way to project the slides. That's when I found out about the Magic Lantern Society. I am grateful to all of you for your assistance. I hope to get the projector late this week, and I look forward to looking at my collection.

Thank you all for your help.

Best,
Mitchell Kornet, DVM

Hello again,

I received the Ebay projector today. It was shipped from Oregon, and unfortunately it was damaged. The photo attached shows the foot broken off.

The projector works, although the mirror looks like it's really aged.

Do you think I should keep this projector or is its value too diminished with the damage. I paid about \$350.



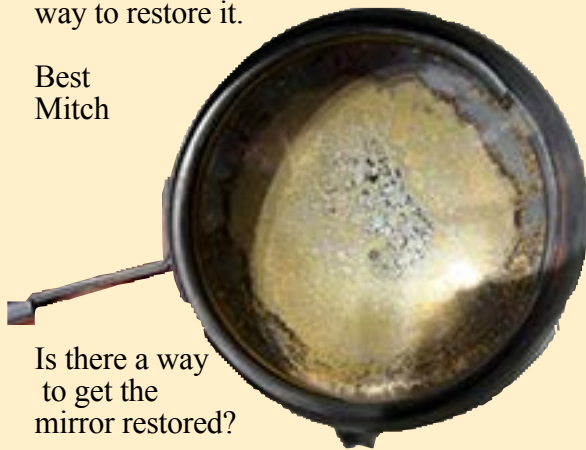
continued next page

Purchase a Working Lantern continued

If I do keep it, is there a glue that you know of that binds metal? That would be a good solution if one existed.

Good evening Larry
Attached is the mirror. It looks pretty old and beat up. I hope that there's a way to restore it.

Best
Mitch



Is there a way
to get the
mirror restored?

Finally, can you send me the specifications a the LED bulb that you recommended.

Thanks for your advice.

Best,
Mitch

**Anyone have
information about
fixes for these
conditions?
please share with us!**

MORE on article
from
Sept E-pub p-8

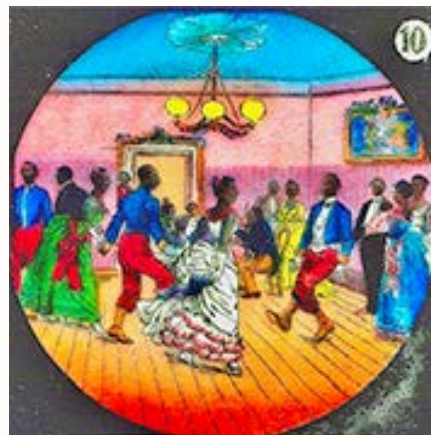
Glass Magic Lantern Slides Depicting Humorous Early Afro-American Scenes.

Edward Wiltshear

Hello Larry,
What a nice surprise to get your note and I really appreciate your clever turn in using my communication to your society members in the format that you then published. Refreshing!

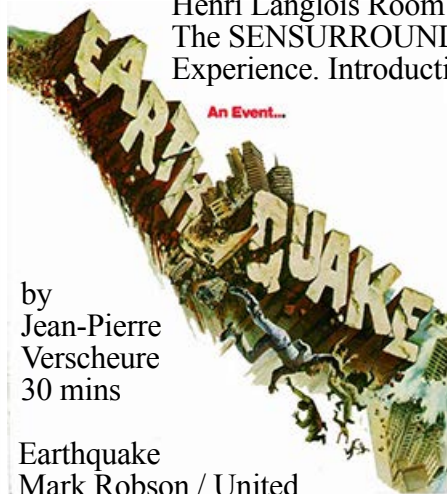
Somewhere there are probably 12 more in a set under the title ' Life in The United States.' Circa 1912 that were commissioned for sale by Joseph Falk of Nurnberg (Nuremberg) for his magic lantern business,

I enclose some of the images for your interest and many thanks for including me in your newsletter
Edward Wiltshear



**CONSERVATORY
CONFERENCES
Friday October 6,
2023 - 7:00 p.m.**

Henri Langlois Room
The SENSURROUND
Experience. Introduction



by
Jean-Pierre
Verschuer
30 mins

Earthquake
Mark Robson / United
States / 1974 / 107 min /
35mm / VOSTF

Introduction followed by
the film Earthquake by
Mark Robson.

Laurent Mannoni
Scientific Director of Heritage
and the Conservatoire des techniques
French Cinematheque
51 rue de Bercy
75012 Paris

t + 33 6 23 91 46 05
<http://www.cinematheque.fr/catalogues/oeuvre/la-toledon.html>



**Thousands of 'Magic Lantern' Slides Show What
Daily Life Was Like 120 Years Ago**

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/travel/news/thousands-of-magic-lantern-slides-show-what-daily-life-was-like-120-years-ago/ar-AA1hbO6y?cvid=77ac40202da649f1b70690099adaa824&ocid=winp2ftaskbarhover&ei=27>

Story by Jordan King •



The images depict Bradford, West Yorkshire in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Pictures: SWNS)© Provided by Metro



Educating With Lantern Slides In the State of Washington

From Robert Monsen

Larry,

I really appreciate the research you have done about the slides ! Thanks very much !

As to the origin of the slides; they were obviously purchased by the Tacoma-Pierce County Dental Society at some point. When is hard to say.

They were given to me as a custodian of some older records of the Dental Society. Again it is hard to say when I received them.

No one else had any interest in the history so they were given to me for safe keeping.

I have always assumed that they were shown to grade school kids but have no proof.

There's one older dentist who may know something about them. I will let you know if I find out anything more after asking him.

Best,

Robert Monsen

From Larry Cederblom

Information I Have so far

There are two sets of slides.

- **Your Teeth** produced by The Department of Public Health, Massachusetts
- **Johnny Dontcare's Tooth** by the Pilgrim Photoplay Exchange, Chicago

The Educational Screen 1945-01: Vol 24 Is

Page 42

AMONG THE PRODUCERS

Bertram Willoughby's Silver Anniversary

An outstanding figure in the field of non-theatrical film distribution is genial, smiling Bertram Willoughby, president of Ideal Pictures Corporation, Chicago, who this month celebrates his 25th year of continuous activity in this field.

Bert was born in Canada. His father and his paternal grandfather were both preachers, and Bert himself was educated for the ministry. After attending Union Christian College in Merom, Indiana, and McMaster University in Toronto, he entered Chicago Theological Seminary in 1909, delivered the Baccalaureate address to his Class at the 1912 Commencement,



Bert Willoughby

and began his first pastorate at the First Congregationalist Church in Wadena, Minnesota.

church use. The result was the completion of four such films within the next few months. They were called "Screen Sermonettes." The idea was to run them solely in his own church, where they proved highly successful—but before long requests for the films came from churches all over the country, and to handle these Bert established a rental library exclusively for church patronage. Sometime later, New Era Films of Chicago, then one of the very few film rental libraries of the country, arranged to handle the distribution of the Bertram Willoughby Screen Sermonettes, and as the result of this "deal", Bert came to Chicago as vice-president of the Company, and head of the Religious Film Department. When, late in 1920, a disastrous fire practically destroyed the concern, Bert organized his own distribution company called Pilgrim Photoplay Exchange to specialize in religious films and stereopticon slides. Soon schools, clubs, state institutions, etc. were added to the church outlet for film rentals and slide sales, and business increased. In 1928 the company was incorporated under the new name of Ideal Pictures Corporation. It prospered under the increasing demand for service.

Then in 1928-29 came a period of important new developments in motion picture history which were greatly to affect the non-theatrical field. Heretofore all films were 35mm silent. Now sound films appeared in the theatres, and non-theatrical customers, too, began to want sound subjects—despite the fact that few, if any, portable 35mm, sound projectors were then available. It was also during this period that the 16mm, silent film was developed. It was a somewhat drastic situation for the non-

Johnny Dontcare's Tooth
Distributed by the Pilgrim
Photoplay Exchange

Some History of the Pilgrim
Photoplay Exchange

1920

Bert organized his own distribution company called Pilgrim Photoplay Exchange, to specialize in religious films and stereopticon slides. Soon schools, clubs, state institutions, etc. were added to the church outlet for film rentals and slide sales, and business increased. In 1928 the company was incorporated under the new name of Ideal Pictures Corporation. It prospered under the increasing demand for service.

continued next page

Educating With Lantern Slides continued

The Journal of the American Dental Association 1936-12: Vol 23 Iss 12

The following lantern slide lectures are suggested for use in the different grades:

Kindergarten and first to fourth grade:
Every Child's Treasure (31 slides).
The D. Kay Brownies (10 slides).

Fifth to eighth grade:
The Teeth and Their Care (12 slides).

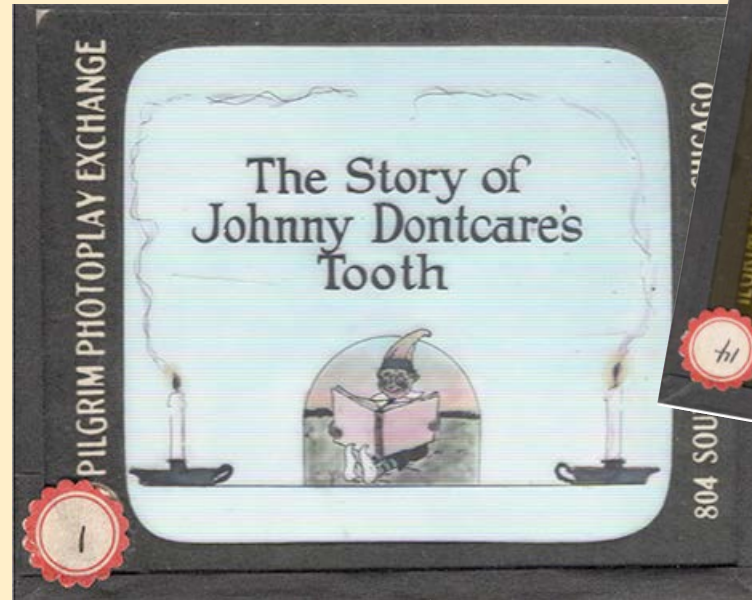
● Your Teeth (40 slides).
● Johnny Don't Care's Teeth (22 slides).

Nature, Builder of Teeth (17 slides).

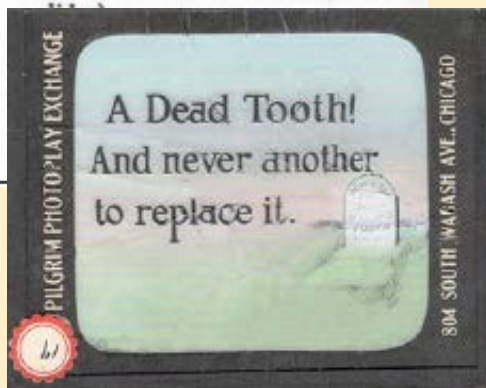
High school:

The Tooth Question (42 slides).

The Mouth and Its Message (13 slides).



Example slide images from Johnny Dontcare's Tooth



A look at the information about



continued next page

"Johnny Don't Care's Teeth" (for fourth to eighth grade children); 22 colored slides. Self-explanatory; no written lecture necessary.

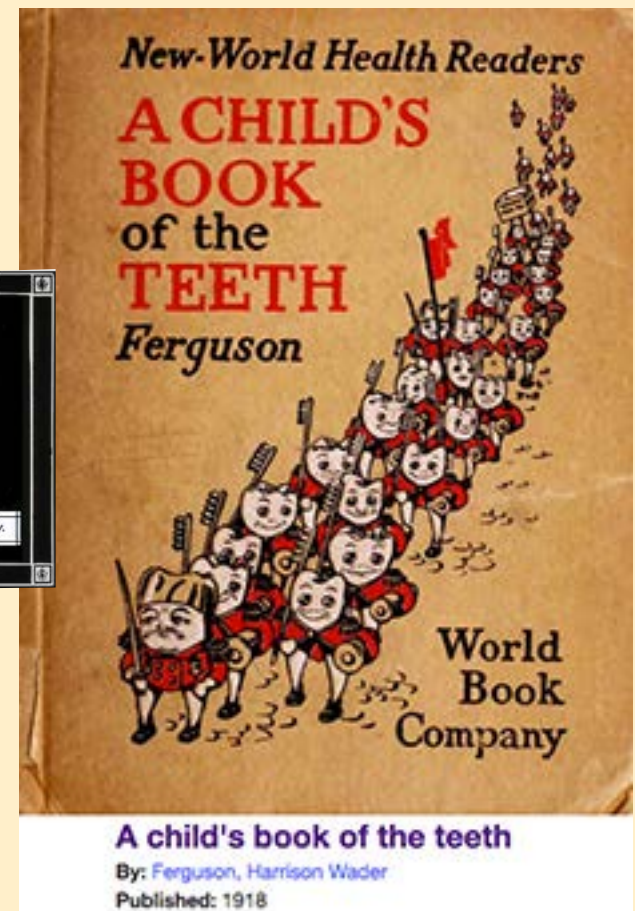
Educating With Lantern Slides continued

Your Teeth produced by The Department of Public Health, Massachusetts

Book author and artist of the Your Teeth slide set



Example
slide
images
from
**Your
Teeth**



"Your Teeth," lecture (for school children of fifth to eighth grades); 40 slides. (Requires about one hour to present.)

Magic Lantern Performance Group Meets Regularly

From Terry Borton

tborton@MagicLanternShows.com

Hi Larry,

Here's a pix from the first meeting of the MLPG. Short copy follows.

Best, Terry



The Magic Lantern Performers' Group gathered for its first meeting of the 2023-04 year in September. About 20 people attend Zoom sessions, as they are able, every other Wednesday night at 7:00 Eastern. The purpose of the group is to improve the magic-lantern

performance skills of its members by presenting lantern segments on-line, getting feedback, and trying the segment again. Since its inception, the group has seen dramatic improvements in its members performance technique, and those members are now getting bookings all over the US. Arrange a visit by sending an email to Terry Borton, tborton@magiclanterenshow.com.



In Memory of Stephen Herbert and the Optilogue

From Richard Crangle

Stephen
Herbert
(1951-2023).
Photo by
Mo Heard.



Many readers of The Optilogue will already be aware of this, but I'm very sorry to relay the news that Stephen Herbert, the originator and driving force of the blog, died in early September 2023.

Stephen was 71 and had been seriously ill for some years, though he always bore what he called 'his condition' and its treatment with dignity and good humour, and never let it diminish his enthusiasm for research and communication of all his wide interests, of which the optical media history reflected in the Optilogue was only one.

The Met

From Ron Easterday

Some interesting images of slide viewing with unique light boxes.

I have a question: I noticed these great triangular prism light boxes inside The Met's Lantern Slide Department

Has anyone seen one of these floating around? Did other manufacturers make something like this, or possibly a custom job? If not, thinking I may have to build one.


Image Source:
<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/digital-underground/2015/all-who-serve-the-museum-mission/slideshow>

Looking for information about these light boxes and their producer

THE MET Visit Exhibitions and Events Art Learn with Us Research Shop

Slideshow


Return to All Who Serve the Museum's Mission: The Staff



Hide caption ▾

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Lantern Slide Department; View of patrons using the library. Photographed November 4, 1920

Share Image 1 of 17 Play slideshow



<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/digital-underground/2015/all-who-serve-the-museum-mission/slideshow>

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Terry Borton
Richard Crangle
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Mitchell Kornet
Robert Monsen
Brian Rogers
Edward Wiltshire

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a
collection of images you would like to
share with the rest of the society?

Upcoming Shows

From John Townsend

john.t10wny@btinternet.com

Hi

Two shows that I will be doing on "The
Wonderful World of the Magic Lantern"
at the Armitt Museum, Rydal Road,
Ambleside, Yorkshire LA22 9BL, UK
on 4th October and 6th December!

Best wishes

John

Welcome Renewing Member

Valerie Lettera-Spletzer

Los Angeles, CA
Interests: Everything!

Welcome New Member

William O'Donnell

Los Angeles, CA
Interests: Slides - Architecture,
Advertisements, Los Angeles, New
Orleans, Theater, Ireland



A Night of Ghostly Magic Lanterns



Elliott & Schlemowitz, Magic Lanternists

Top contributor · 4h ·

Phantasmagoria magic lantern show in Brooklyn NY this October!



THU, OCT 12 AT 4 PM PDT

In-Person Spectacle · Fantasmagoria: A Night of Ghostly Magic Lanterns

From Ron Easterday

In-Person Spectacle · Fantasmagoria: A
Night of Ghostly Magic Lanterns with
Dawn Elliott, Joel Schlemowitz, and Ronni
Thomas

Thursday, October 12

7 pm (Show beings at 7:15pm)

\$20 Patreon Members / \$25 General
Admission

Location: Church of the Ascension, 127
Kent St, Brooklyn, NY 11222



MORPID ANATOMY

SURVIVING THE INTERSECT OF ART AND MEDICINE, DEATH AND CULTURE

EVENTS CLASSES SHOP ONLINE JOURNAL/MEMBERSHIP VISIT PRESS EXHIBITIONS&MORE MUSEUM BLOG

For more information and tickets

<https://www.morbidanatomy.org/events-tickets/in-person-fantasmagoria-a-night-of-ghostly-magic-lanterns-with-dawn-elliott-joel-schlemowitz-and-ronni-thomas?fbclid=IwAR0iWd-UwZ9qJ9DB2iXGRBd66f-9Kasf8UfjX4aL-SRXHzXHEUn0kvTFKDAY>